

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094537

FOLLOWING REPEAT JERUSALEM 0695 ACTION SECSTATE 06 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 0695

SECTO 226

DEPARTMENT PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR SCOWCROFT AND ZEIGLER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: DEEP BACKGROUNDER FOR TRAVELING PRESS ON ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING

REF: SECTO 222

1. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT AND ON-THE-RECORD BRIEFING (REFTEL)
WHICH WE GAVE TRAVELLING PRESS HALF HOUR BEFORE SEEING
RESIDENT AND OTHER PRESS, MCCLOSKEY MADE FOLLOWING POINTS ON
DEEP BACKGROUND IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS:

A. SOVIET SIDE INTERESTED IN MEETING IN SYRIA. YOU HAVE
BEEN TOLD THAT WE WOULDN'T AGREE TO THIS. WE BELIEVED CYPRUS
OR GENEVA MORE APPROPRIATE.

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B. WHILE WE WANT TO KEEP IN CONTACT WITH SOVIETS, WE

CAN DO IT BETTER AT A LOCATION WHERE US AND USSR DO NOT BECOME ADVOCATES FOR ISRAELI AND ARAB RESPECTIVELY ON DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. THIS IS WHY DAMASCUS WOULD HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL ARAB GOVERNMENTS CONSIDERED THAT MEETING IN SYRIA WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE.

C. SOVIETS INTERESTED IN DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND WISH TO BECOME MORE ACTIVELY INVOLVED, MORE THAN ARABS WANT. WE HAVE INTEREST IN NOT LETTING THIS BECOME A JOINT NEGOTIATION.

D. SECRETARY AND GROMYKO DID NOT SET ANY FUTURE MEETING WHEN THEY MET IN GENEVA. AT THAT TIME WE DID NOT KNOW GROMYKO WOULD BE VISITING DAMASCUS OR THAT HE WOULD AGAIN BE SEEING THE SECRETARY. QUESTION OF POSSIBLE MEETING AROSE TWO OR THREE DAYS AGO AND DATE JELLED ONLY IN LAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

2. IN HOPE OF FORESTALLING SPECULATION RAISED BY GWERTZMAN AND OTHERS THAT MEETING REPRESENTS A US-SOVIET DEAL ON ISRAELI-SYRIAN DISENGAGEMENT, MCCLOSKEY TOLD THEM THIS IS TOTALLY WRONG AND GAVE FOLLOWING ON BACKGROUND: THERE IS NO DEAL IN PLAY OR EXPECTED AS THE OUTCOME OF THIS MEETING. KISSINGER UNQUOTE RUSH

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